REEVALUATION FOR
COALFIELDS EXPRESSWAY, SECTION IIIC: ROCKHOUSE
FROM ROUTE 643 TO VIRGINIA ROUTE 83
AT THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE LINE
BUCHANAN COUNTY, VIRGINIA
State Project No. 0121-013-772, PE-101; UPC 85126
VDHR FILE # 1997-0950

ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY

PREPARED FOR:
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
and
PARSONS TRANSPORTATION GROUP INC. OF VIRGINIA
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

PREPARED BY:
JENNIFER B. STEWART
and
LORETTA LAUTZENHEISER, RPA
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

COASTAL CAROLINA RESEARCH, INC.
P.O. BOX 1198
1601 SAINT ANDREW STREET
TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27886

JULY 2008
ABSTRACT

Coastal Carolina Research, Inc. (CCR) conducted a historic architecture survey to reevaluate the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) findings for the Rockhouse section of the Coalfields Expressway (CFX, U.S. Route 121), a proposed four-lane, controlled-access, primary highway. The FEIS was completed in 2001. Since that time, under provisions of the Virginia Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA), the PPTA private partners (Pioneer Group, Inc. and Alpha Natural Resources, LLC) have proposed a different alignment than that presented in the 2001 FEIS. This section of the CFX extends from Route 643 to Virginia Route 83 at the West Virginia state line, in Buchanan County, Virginia. It includes approximately five miles of mainline roadway, which generally follows the original selected alternative, although some portions of the current proposed construction limits are outside the FEIS study corridor. The reevaluation was done to assess the changes in environmental impacts resulting from the alignment changes and to examine the potential for changes in the environment since the Record of Decision was issued.

CCR conducted the survey for Parsons Transportation Group Inc., the firm retained by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to prepare the transportation study for this project. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for architecture covered a 1,000-foot-wide corridor incorporating the proposed right-of-way plus the resources that are adjacent to or visible from the corridor. None of the resources identified during the survey are recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The study was undertaken in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s regulations for compliance with Section 106, codified as 36 CFR Part 800. The scope of the investigations was consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the report was prepared in accordance with the “Guidelines for Preparing Identification and Evaluation Reports for Submission Pursuant to Sections 106 and 110, National Historic Preservation Act, Environmental Impact Reports of State Agencies, Virginia Appropriation Act, 1992 Session Amendments” (VDHR 2001).
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT i

LIST OF FIGURES ii

LIST OF TABLES ii

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY 1
  Introduction 1
  Background Research 4
  Field Methods 4
  Previously Recorded Architectural Resources 5
  Newly Recorded Architectural Resources 5
  Summary 14

REFERENCES CITED 15

# LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: General Location of the Project Area. 2
Figure 2: Location of Previously Recorded and Newly Recorded Architectural Resources Within or Near the Project Area, Shown on the USGS 7.5’ Patterson, Virginia, Topographic Quadrangle. 6
Figure 3: Lester Cemetery (VDHR #013-5131). 7
Figure 4: House, 14752 Slate Creek Road (VDHR #013-5132). 7
Figure 5: Stacy-Mullins Cemetery (VDHR #013-5133). 9
Figure 6: Stacy-Mullins Cemetery (VDHR #013-5133), Grave of David Stacy. 9
Figure 7: House, Terminus of Payne Branch Road (VDHR #013-5137). 12
Figure 8: House, West Side of Payne Branch Road (VDHR #013-5138). 12

# LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Summary of Previously Recorded Resources. 5
Table 2: Summary of the Resources Recorded During the Current Survey. 5
MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Introduction

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) commissioned a cultural resources study to reevaluate the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) findings for the Rockhouse section of the Coalfields Expressway (CFX, U.S. Route 121). The FEIS was completed in 2001. Since that time, under provisions of the Virginia Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA), the PPTA private partners (Pioneer Group, Inc. and Alpha Natural Resources, LLC) have proposed a different alignment than that presented in the 2001 FEIS. In order to determine if additional historic resources are included in the new alignment, Coastal Carolina Research, Inc. (CCR) conducted an architectural survey of the study area. The survey was conducted for Parsons Transportation Group Inc., the firm retained by VDOT to prepare the transportation study for this project.

This report details the results of the architectural survey of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed Rockhouse section of the CFX, a proposed four-lane, controlled-access, primary highway. This section of the CFX extends from Route 643 to Virginia Route 83 at the West Virginia state line, in Buchanan County, Virginia (Figure 1). It includes approximately five miles of mainline roadway, which generally follows the original selected alternative, although some portions of the current proposed construction limits are outside the FEIS study corridor. The APE is defined as a 1,000-foot-wide corridor plus resources adjacent to or visible from the corridor. The reevaluation was done to assess the changes in environmental impacts resulting from the alignment changes and the potential for changes in the environment since the Record of Decision was issued.

The purpose of the survey was to identify and record all architectural resources more than 50 years old and assess their potential for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility. The survey was undertaken in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations for compliance with Section 106, codified as 36 CFR Part 800. The scope of the investigations was consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the report was prepared in accordance with the “Guidelines for Preparing Identification and Evaluation Reports for Submission Pursuant to Sections 106 and 110, National Historic Preservation Act, Environmental Impact Reports of State Agencies, Virginia Appropriation Act, 1992 Session Amendments” (VDHR 2001).
Figure 1: General Location of the Project Area.
The survey was conducted in June 2008, with Loretta Lautzenheiser as the principal investigator and project manager. Jennifer Stewart served as the architectural historian, with assistance from Robert Patterson. Neil Mayberry created the graphics. Jennifer Stewart prepared the Data Sharing System (DSS) forms, and Bill Hall conducted the background research. Mattie Rasberry prepared the sketch maps, photographs, and DSS packets.
Background Research

To identify all previously recorded architectural resources present within the APE, CCR researchers examined the architectural site files at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) and the records of the previous CFX surveys at CCR. Researchers conducted further study at VDHR, Richmond; the Library of Virginia, Richmond; and the library of CCR in Tarboro, North Carolina. When possible, they located owners and residents of the resources within the study area and interviewed them to collect information concerning the construction dates and history of the resources.

Field Methods

Fieldwork for the architectural investigation was conducted by vehicle and on foot. The purpose of the study was twofold: 1) to provide specific information concerning the location, nature, and significance of buildings more than 50 years old in the APE; and 2) to identify buildings that appear to be potentially eligible for the NRHP. Each resource that was determined to be more than 50 years old was recorded and photographed.

Resources were assessed against the criteria of eligibility for the NRHP in order to determine their potential for eligibility. These criteria require that the quality of significance in American history, architecture, culture, and archaeology should be present in buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and that the buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts:

A. are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
B. are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
C. embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
D. have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (Federal Register 1981).
Previously Recorded Architectural Resources

One previously recorded architectural resource is located within the APE (Figure 2). This was recorded by CCR during a previous survey for the CFX (Jones and Lautzenheiser 1998) and was determined not eligible for the NRHP by VDHR on March 18, 1999. Table 1 summarizes the previously recorded resource.

Table 1: Summary of Previously Recorded Resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inventory Number</th>
<th>Name, Address</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Determination of NRHP Eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>013-5030</td>
<td>Ben Lester House, South Side of Coal Bank Road</td>
<td>c. 1948</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Newly Recorded Architectural Resources

In the current survey, CCR researchers identified and recorded nine architectural resources in the APE (Table 2; see Figure 2). These resources represent common architectural types, with alterations or additions to their original designs frequently compromising their integrity. Therefore, all nine of the newly recorded resources (VDHR #s 013-5131 through 013-5139) are recommended as not eligible for the NRHP. Table 2 summarizes the newly recorded resources.

Table 2: Summary of the Resources Recorded During the Current Survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inventory Number</th>
<th>Name, Address</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Recommended NRHP Eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>013-5131</td>
<td>Lester Cemetery, North Side of Slate Creek Road (Route 83)</td>
<td>c. 1879</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013-5132</td>
<td>House, 14752 Slate Creek Road (Route 83)</td>
<td>c. 1950</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013-5133</td>
<td>Stacy-Mullins Cemetery, North Side of Coal Bank Road</td>
<td>pre-1910</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013-5134</td>
<td>Mullins House, North Side of Coal Bank Road</td>
<td>c. 1949</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013-5135</td>
<td>House, Terminus of Coal Bank Road</td>
<td>c. 1945</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013-5136</td>
<td>House, North Side of Coal Bank Road</td>
<td>c. 1950</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013-5137</td>
<td>House, Terminus of Payne Branch Road</td>
<td>c. 1940</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013-5138</td>
<td>House, West Side of Payne Branch Road</td>
<td>c. 1940</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013-5139</td>
<td>House, East Side of Hurley Road</td>
<td>c. 1940</td>
<td>Not Eligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VDHR INVENTORY NUMBER:** 013-5131  
**RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS:** Lester Cemetery, North Side of Slate Creek Road (Route 83)  
**DATE(S):** c. 1879  
**DESCRIPTION:** This historic cemetery (Figure 3) was defined on the basis of more than 100 visible grave markers. Most of markers are made of granite, concrete, or marble and are oriented in an east-west direction. In the oldest part of the cemetery is a group of graves marked by field stones with no inscriptions. The earliest marker with an inscription is for Polly Stacy Lester 1841-1879. The field stone markers appear to pre-
Figure 2: Location of Previously Recorded and Newly Recorded Architectural Resources Within or Near the Project Area, Shown on the USGS 7.5' Patterson, Virginia, Topographic Quadrangle.
Figure 3: Lester Cemetery (VDHR #013-5131).

Figure 4: House, 14752 Slate Creek Road (VDHR #013-5132).
date 1879, but do not bear inscriptions. The cemetery is on a mountain to the north of Slate Creek Road (Route 83) and is maintained by the congregation of Mary Lou Old Regular Baptist Church. There is no structure, such as a fence, to define the cemetery boundaries. The stones occur in two sections along the ridge of the mountain where it is located. Families in the cemetery include Lester, Horn, Baker, Blakenship, Davis, Kennedy, Hess, and Tipton.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NRHP ELIGIBILITY: This historic cemetery does not lend itself to comparative archaeological or physical anthropological studies. The cemetery is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D. It is also recommended as not eligible under Criteria Consideration C for association with important persons or Criteria Consideration D, as it contains no graves of important persons, is not of great age, contains no special design elements, and is not associated with significant events. However, relevant local and state statutes regarding the protection and relocation of cemeteries must be followed if the cemetery is impacted.

VDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: 013-5132
RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS: House, 14752 Slate Creek Road (Route 83)
DATE(S): c. 1950
DESCRIPTION: This one-story dwelling (Figure 4) features a wooden frame structural system that rests on a foundation of concrete block covered with vinyl siding. The exterior walls are clad in vinyl siding, and the gabled roof is covered in standing-seam metal. The original windows have been replaced with one-over-one aluminum sash windows with shutters. The hipped front porch has been enclosed. A concrete chimney is attached to the west exterior elevation of the house.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NRHP ELIGIBILITY: This dwelling exhibits a design common for the period. This resource has no apparent association with any event or person important in our nation’s history, lacks architectural significance, and does not appear to have the ability to yield important information. In addition, multiple alterations including the addition of vinyl siding, the replacement of windows, and the altered front porch diminish the architectural integrity of the resource. This resource is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.

VDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: 013-5133
RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS: Stacy-Mullins Cemetery, North Side of Coal Bank Road
DATE(S): pre-1910
DESCRIPTION: This historic cemetery (Figure 5) was defined on the basis of approximately 15 visible grave markers. The markers are made from granite, concrete, and field stones. The graves are oriented in an east-west direction. The oldest part of the cemetery is a group of graves marked by field stones with no inscriptions. The earliest marker with an inscription in the cemetery is for David Stacy 1880-1910 (Figure 6). The field stone markers appear to pre-date 1910, but do not bear inscriptions. The cemetery is on a hill to the north of Coal Bank Road and is maintained by Mr. Mullins. There is no structure, such as a fence, to define the cemetery boundaries. The cemetery is a family cemetery and not used by the community in general.
Figure 5: Stacy-Mullins Cemetery (VDHR #013-5133).

Figure 6: Stacy-Mullins Cemetery (VDHR #013-5133), Grave of David Stacy.
**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NRHP ELIGIBILITY:** This historic cemetery does not lend itself to comparative archaeological or physical anthropological studies. The cemetery is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D. It is also recommended as not eligible under Criteria Consideration C for association with important persons or Criteria Consideration D, as it contains no graves of important persons, is not of great age, contains no special design elements, and is not associated with significant events. However, relevant local and state statutes regarding the protection and relocation of cemeteries must be followed if the cemetery is impacted.

**VDHR INVENTORY NUMBER:** 013-5134  
**RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS:** Mullins House, North Side of Coal Bank Road  
**DATE(S):** c. 1949  
**DESCRIPTION:** This one-story Frame Vernacular dwelling rests on a solid concrete block foundation. The exterior walls are clad in aluminum siding, and the front-gabled roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The front porch is three bays wide and covered by a hipped roof supported by cast metal posts. The original windows have been replaced with one-over-one aluminum sash windows. A concrete chimney is located on the rear interior portion of the roof. A shed-roofed addition has been appended to the east elevation. East of the house is a one-story shed and one-story garage. The shed is clad in aluminum siding and displays a gabled roof covered in standing-seam metal. The one-bay garage is clad in aluminum siding with a gabled roof covered in standing-seam metal. To the northwest of the house is a barn clad in vertical boards that sits at the top of a hill. The barn rests on a foundation of concrete block and features a gabled roof covered in standing-seam metal.  

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NRHP ELIGIBILITY:** This dwelling exhibits a design common for the period. This resource has no apparent association with any event or person important in our nation’s history, lacks architectural significance, and does not appear to have the ability to yield important information. Also, due to alterations including the addition of aluminum siding and new windows, the construction of an addition, and the replacement of roofing material, this house maintains a low level of architectural integrity. This resource is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.

**VDHR INVENTORY NUMBER:** 013-5135  
**RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS:** House, Terminus of Coal Bank Road  
**DATE(S):** c. 1945  
**DESCRIPTION:** This one-story house has been remodeled for use as a garage. The house is a wooden frame structure with exterior walls that are covered in aluminum siding and a gabled roof covered in asphalt shingles. A concrete chimney is located on the south exterior elevation of the house. A second concrete chimney on the south elevation has been partially demolished. A one-story gabled porch rests on the west elevation and has been enclosed. Fenestration consists of three-over-one and six-over-six wooden double-hung sash windows. One garage bay has been added to the south elevation of the house. East of the house is a vinyl-siding-clad modern house, and to the west is a one-story wooden barn. The barn is covered in T-111 siding and plywood, and the shed roof is clad in standing-seam metal.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NRHP ELIGIBILITY: This dwelling exhibits a design common for the period. This resource has no apparent association with any event or person important in our nation’s history, lacks architectural significance, and does not appear to have the ability to yield important information. Also, due to alterations, including the conversion of the house into a garage, the enclosure of the porch, and the addition of a garage bay to the south elevation, this house maintains a low level of architectural integrity. This resource is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.

VDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: 013-5136
RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS: House, North Side of Coal Bank Road
DATE(S): c. 1950
DESCRIPTION: This one-story Frame Vernacular dwelling rests on a concrete block foundation. The exterior walls are clad in aluminum siding, and the side-gabled roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The windows include three-over-one wooden, double-hung sash windows and several one-over-one aluminum sash windows. The front porch has been enclosed. The front yard is enclosed with a chain-link fence. To the north of the house, on top of a hill, is the Stacy-Mullins cemetery (VDHR #013-5133).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NRHP ELIGIBILITY: This dwelling exhibits a design common for the period. This resource has no apparent association with any event or person important in our nation’s history, lacks architectural significance, and does not appear to have the ability to yield important information. This resource is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.

VDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: 013-5137
RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS: House, Terminus of Payne Branch Road
DATE(S): c. 1940
DESCRIPTION: This one-story Frame Vernacular dwelling (Figure 7) rests on a concrete block foundation. The exterior walls are clad in vinyl siding, and the side-gabled roof is covered in corrugated metal and standing-seam metal. The windows are three-over-one wooden, double-hung sash windows. The one-story porch displays a shed roof and spans the entire front façade of the house. A portion of the porch has been enclosed. There are five outbuildings associated with this house. Northwest of the house, high on the side of a mountain, are two log structures. The log structures appear to have served as a corncrib and shed (A)/animal pen. Both of the log structures feature gabled roofs covered in standing-seam metal. The corncrib is constructed of round logs with large spaces between the logs, and the shed (A) features a rough log frame with vertical boards covering most of the exterior. A small gabled pump house that is clad in vinyl siding and a shed (B) are north of the house. Shed (B) is also clad in vinyl siding and displays a gabled roof covered in standing-seam metal. South of the house is a wood shed constructed of logs. The wood shed is open to the east and has a shed roof covered in standing-seam metal.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NRHP ELIGIBILITY: This dwelling exhibits a design common for the period. This resource has no apparent association with any event or person important in our nation’s history, lacks architectural significance, and does not appear to have the ability to yield important information. This resource is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.
Figure 7: House, Terminus of Payne Branch Road (VDHR #013-5137).

Figure 8: House, West Side of Payne Branch Road (VDHR #013-5138).
**VDHR INVENTORY NUMBER:** 013-5138  
**RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS:** House, West Side of Payne Branch Road  
**DATE(S):** c. 1940  
**DESCRIPTION:** This one-story wooden frame house (Figure 8) is currently vacant and in danger of deterioration. The exterior walls are clad in bricktex siding, and the front-gabled roof is covered in corrugated metal. A concrete chimney is located on the southwest elevation. The front porch features a shed roof supported by wooden posts and is one bay wide. There are no windows still intact on this house. Long overgrown grass surrounds the house.  
**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NRHP ELIGIBILITY:** This dwelling exhibits a design common for the period. This resource has no apparent association with any event or person important in our nation’s history, lacks architectural significance, and does not appear to have the ability to yield important information. In addition, due to neglect, this house maintains a low level of architectural integrity. This resource is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.

**VDHR INVENTORY NUMBER:** 013-5139  
**RESOURCE NAME AND ADDRESS:** House, East Side of Hurley Road  
**DATE(S):** c. 1940  
**DESCRIPTION:** This one-story wooden frame house is located on the east side of Hurley Road, north of Hemlock Road. The exterior walls are covered in vinyl siding, and the front-gabled roof is clad in standing-seam metal. The house rests on a solid foundation of concrete block. A brick chimney is located in the interior portion of the roof. The enclosed front porch features a hipped roof. Fenestration consists of one-over-one aluminum sash windows and aluminum awning windows. A wooden deck has been appended to the east elevation of the house. Northeast of the house is a concrete block shed that displays a gabled roof covered in standing-seam metal.  
**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NRHP ELIGIBILITY:** This dwelling exhibits a design common for the period. This resource has no apparent association with any event or person important in our nation’s history, lacks architectural significance, and does not appear to have the ability to yield important information. In addition, due to alterations including the addition of vinyl siding, the replaced windows, the enclosed porch, and the addition of a wooden deck, this house maintains a low level of architectural integrity. This resource is recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, or D.
Summary

CCR conducted an architectural resource survey for the Rockhouse section of the CFX in Buchanan County, Virginia. The purpose of the survey was to identify and record all resources more than 50 years old and assess their potential for NRHP eligibility. The APE for architecture included the 1,000-foot-wide corridor that extends from Route 643 to Virginia Route 83 at the West Virginia state line, plus the resources that are adjacent to or visible from the corridor. The corridor includes approximately five miles of mainline roadway, which generally follows the original selected alternative, although some portions of the current proposed construction limits are outside the FEIS study corridor.

One previously recorded resource and nine newly recorded resources were documented. The previously recorded resource was determined not eligible for the NRHP by VDHR on March 18, 1999.

All nine of the newly recorded resources are recommended as not eligible for listing in the NRHP.
REFERENCES CITED

Federal Register

Jones, Joanna C., and Loretta Lautzenheiser

VDHR (Virginia Department of Historic Resources)